

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4920

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 4116

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR HU AO

SUBJECT: U.S. PROTEST OVER USE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES AS STAGING
POINTS FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA

REF: STATE 300227

1. MCAULIFFE CALLED ON ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MCARJAI -- PUJA IS CONFERENCING IN MOSCOW -- AT 1200 HOURS ON DECEMBER 23 TO DELIVER NOTE (COPY POUCHED EUR/EE) ACCORDING TO INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL. HE ADVISED MARJAI THAT HE WAS CALLING ON HIM IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXPLICIT AND URGENT INSTRUCTIONS FROM WASHINGTON.

2. MARJAI LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AS MCAULIFFE READ NOTE IN ITS ENTIRETY. HE THEN REPLIED THAT HE COULD AGREE WITH ONE SENTENCE RIGHT AWAY, NAMELY THAT GOH ALSO HOPES THAT THIS MATTER WOULD NOT AFFECT U.S.-HUNGARIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. WITH REGARD TO THE REST OF THE NOTE MARJAI SAID HE WOULD FORWARD IT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES FOR STUDY AND ANALYSIS, AND THAT GOH WILL PROVIDE EARLY REPLY IN DUE COURSE.

3. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, MARJAI SAID HE WISHED TO POINT OUT THAT THE GOH HAS BEEN SUPPORTING MPLA FOR A LONG TIME, AND INTENDS TO CONTINUE DOING SO IN THE FUTURE. THERE WAS NOTHING NEW, HE ADDED, IN THIS HUNGARIAN POLICY. IN FACT, GOH HAS RECOGNIZED MPLA AS LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA.

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4. MARJAI SAID HE ASSUMED USG DID NOT OBJECT TO HUNGARIAN POLICY PER SE SINCE THIS WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE NOTE. MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT AMERICAN NOTE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF AND THAT HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON THAT SPECIFIC POINT SINCE HE WAS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.

5. MARJAI THEN MADE OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO FACT THAT "OTHER THIRD COUNTRIES" HAD IN TIMES PAST ALLOWED THEIR LAND AND AIRSPACE TO BE USED TO SUPPORT SIMILAR U.S.-SPONSORED AIRLIFTS.

6. MCAULIFFE SAID AMERICAN NOTE EXPRESSES USG POSITION. HE ADDED THAT HE KNEW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN PREVIOUS ASSIGNMENTS THAT FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS -- EVEN ALLIES -- DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY LEND THEIR LANDHAND AIRSPACE TO OTHERS FOR FUCH PURPOSES. THAT BEING THE CASE, HE HAD TO ASSUME THAT HUNGARY, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, MIGHT HAVE EXERCISED OPTION NOT TO DO SO.

7. COMMENT: MARJAI WAS PLEASANT, UNSURPRISED AND ALMOST JOVIAL DURING TWENTY-FIVE MINUTE CALL. QUICK HUNGARIAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA AS GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA ON NOVEMBER 12 (BUDAPEST 3636) AND MARJAI'S CANDID ASSERTION THAT GOH INTENDS CONTINUE SUPPORT MPLA ARE PART AND PARCEL OF SAME PACKAGE. WHETHER IN THEIR REPLY HUNGARIANS WILL OFFICIALLY ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE ALLOWED THEIR LAND AND AIRSPACE TO BE USED IN SUPPORT OF SOVIET AIRLIFT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, FOR M OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUDAPE04116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850081-1942
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751216/aaaaanyh.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 300227
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PROTEST OVER USE OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES AS STAGING POINTS FOR SOVIET/CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA
TAGS: PFOR, PEPR, HU, AO, US, UR, CU, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006